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Association of
Former
Intelligence
Officers



11-3625

February 1977

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505


Dear Admiral Turner,

The Association of Former Intelligence Officers has a membership of 1,600 ex-intelligence men and women from all services. Among them are your two immediate predecessors.

I would like ~~me~~ to invite you to speak at the keynote luncheon of the Third Annual Convention of AFIO on 15 September. Last year then-DCI George Bush was the guest, and we hope that the appearance of the DCI will become the custom. Our meeting will be at the Twin Bridges Marriot Convention complex. If you are kind enough to accept the invitation I will be glad to work out the details with your staff.

Our congratulations on your confirmation. This organization is attempting to educate the American public on the need for adequate, responsible intelligence. If there is anything we can do to make your job easier, please let us know.

Sincerely and cordially,


David Atlee Phillips
President

To be sure you are not confused: we recently changed our name from ARIO---The Association of Retired Intelligence Officers.

*DCI - advice?
Is this different than
CIA retirees?*

H-23.4



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS

VOL. II, NO. 4, CONVENTION ISSUE 1976

In Reston, Virginia...

A SUCCESSFUL SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION!

A galaxy of government and top intelligence community officials greeted the 250 ARIO members who met in their second national convention at Reston, Virginia on September 16 and 17 and told them, in the words of a message from President Gerald Ford, that "The United States cannot afford anything but the very best intelligence if we wish to preserve peace and freedom....I welcome," the President went on, "this opportunity...to express my deep appreciation to all of those who have served our country and have provided the critical information that the President must have in discharging his responsibilities."

President Ford's message, reproduced in full on this page, was delivered for him by White House Counsellor John O. Marsh, Jr. at the final banquet of ARIO's second national convention, a gathering which confirmed that the organization has firmly established itself in the eyes of government, Congress and press as an authoritative and credible public spokesman for the intelligence function in our society. As LTG Samuel V. Wilson, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, put it in a rousing speech at Friday's luncheon, "You are, collectively, an important voice today. One of these days I hope to join you and together we will go on shouting out what America must continue to hear. In the meantime, you have my utter respect for the contributions you have made in your lifetimes and continue to make today."

General Wilson received a standing ovation that shook the walls as he reaffirmed his conviction that America could and would retain its place in the world and live up to its ideals "and will stay that way until Americans choose otherwise — and nobody wants to consciously make a choice like that."

A similarly encouraging message came from the man who, above all others, has his fingers on the pulse of the intelligence community and its standing in the government and Congress. DCI George Bush addressed the Thursday lunch meeting of the convention and delivered the hopeful message that Congress, before which he has testified no fewer than 37 times in eight months, is beginning to see its job as that of

strengthening the U.S.'s intelligence rather than "ferreting out corruption." He added the cheering news that CIA recruitment is up much higher this year in both quantity and quality and added the finding that in the course of his distinguished career in politics and diplomacy he has "never been associated with more selfless dedication and at the same time more quality than I am at this time as DCI."

The press agreed with these distinguished gentlemen that the ARIO convention was an important event. No fewer than fourteen micro-

(Continued on page 2)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 17, 1976

These past two years have been a time of testing for the American Intelligence Community.

Throughout this period I have made my position clear: The United States cannot afford anything but the very best intelligence if we wish to preserve peace and freedom. I have known many dedicated and capable American intelligence officers. They are a credit to our country. They serve quietly, without public acclaim, and their achievements are often never known to the American people.

I welcome this opportunity of this Second National Convention of the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers to express my deep appreciation to all of those who have served our country and who have provided the critical information that the President must have in discharging his responsibilities.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTIONNAIRE

With this PERISCOPE you will find a questionnaire. Participate in the two vital decisions soon to be made by ARIO. Please return by 5 December.

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FROM THE DESK OF DAVE PHILLIPS...

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ARIO is now eighteen months old and it begins to appear that, despite some shaky moments in 1975, it and American intelligence will survive. Although we have never solicited funds other than dues and personal contributions of ARIO members, we have an office and the furniture is paid for. We just purchased shelves for the first books in our library. Our Second National Convention, thanks to some volunteer



work from many of our members and a great deal from a few, was a success. We have a now-experienced cadre of public speakers and writers who will stand up and be counted when there is debate concerning the need for adequate intelligence in America. By the time you read this we will certainly have 1,300 members.

The most important thing going for us, after that initial period when many a skeptic eyed us warily, is our good name. Next week, for the fifth time, an ARIO representative will speak on that important little Hill in Washington—at Congressional request.

To me the most satisfying part of ARIO's development has been the ecumenical aspect—former intelligence professionals from all services working together, in tandem, and speaking in a collective voice which cannot be ignored. Let me quote from a letter one of our members just mailed to a number of his former colleagues. CAPT Robert P. Jackson, Jr., USNR (Ret) of Louisiana recently attended the ARIO convention with Mrs. Jackson. Returning home, he urged friends who had served with him in ONI to join ARIO. In his letter he told them: "ARIO was started by a few retired agents of the CIA, because of their concern... They evidently believed that only a joint organization could accomplish the things they hoped for... The retired personnel from any one organization could not be effective in the encouragement of Congress to pass the necessary laws to protect our national secrets. Separately they could be successful only as social clubs. Together the possibilities are great."

There has been considerable discussion as to whether ARIO should exist at all. Some of my former colleagues from CIA have not joined ARIO, saying frankly they believe intelligence is a secret business to be conducted in secret, and that its practitioners should continue in the silent service even in retirement, just hanging in there until the problems go away. Two years ago I agreed with them. Now I am convinced that ARIO's course is a proper one. The "problems" which have been behind the onslaught against intelligence, and which have tarnished the image of those who served diligently and honorably in an arcane but necessary trade, will be around for a long time. Today, as I write, a copy of *The Washington Post* is in view—there are two, separate and distinct editions, one for the CIA, the FBI is besieged now for actions taken against a revolutionary group which even as it was being

responsible for bombing the United States Capitol. ARIO has never denied that American intelligence has made mistakes, some grievous. But ARIO must continue to insist that the intelligence community, on balance, has served this country well, and that intelligence operators were dedicated patriots.

Our task is not easy. We do not sell secrets, and thus cannot titillate those who write headlines or insist on indiscriminate revelation. (ARIO speakers have appeared before innumerable civic and educational groups—I am not aware of a single instance when one of our members has let slip a vital secret). To maintain credibility, we must be low-key and ready to admit that our critics can sometimes be well-meaning, with concerns as honest as our own. But a prudent long range investment can pay dividends. For instance, I have just reviewed a class-room kit for use in the nation's high schools. Produced by the Associated Press and Prentice Hall, the kit is composed of film-strips and tape cassettes about the CIA and the intelligence community; it is designed to provide students the information necessary to allow them to make their own decisions about the need for secret operations. As far as I know it is the only teaching aid of its kind now available in the American secondary school system, and certainly thousands of young people in hundreds of schools will be making their decisions about the role of intelligence after seeing the film-strips and hearing the cassettes. They will make that judgment after hearing the observations of four persons, each commenting on intelligence. The four? Senator Frank Church and three others. The other three are ARIO members.

You will have noted elsewhere that we now have three ARIO Regional Coordinators. Contact them, work with them. Form an ARIO group in your community—it takes only one of you to make a reservation at a restaurant and to invite those colleagues who live in your area to gather for a dutch-treat lunch and to plan local ARIO activity.

There is still much work to be done. Our detractors many of whom have prospered from selling secrets have made their impression, and we must put their perceptions in perspective for the American people.

Recently I have been working on a speech I will give at the end of the month in Madison, Wisconsin to a public affairs group. In the mail yesterday I received the publicity which has gone out for that presentation. Among other items was a suggested reading list about intelligence, provided to the group by the Madison public library. Four volumes were suggested, so that the members of the audience would be knowledgeable about intelligence operations before my appearance. The four volumes? First, the Rockefeller Commission Report, which is fine. The other three were *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*, by Marchetti and Marks, *The CIA File*, by Marks and his colleague from the Institute of Policy Studies, Robert Borosage, and, finally, *Inside the Company: CIA Diary*, by Philip Agee.

Perhaps in the future ARIO can become a social and fraternal group, and we can all get together occasionally to swap war stories and drink to better times. But not yet. There's work to be done.

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

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16	Asst/DCI	✓			
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Remarks:

Pls see Asst Turner's note & develop responses.



5 Mar
Date

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